



**Confederated Tribes
of the Colville Reservation**

P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, Washington 99155

June 6, 2003

John Iani, Administrator
EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Columbia River TMDL for the Colville Indian Reservation

Dear Mr. Iani:

For many months EPA has been developing a TMDL for the Columbia River for dissolved gas and temperature. Tribal technical representatives from the Office of Environmental Trust and other Tribal technical staff have participated in some of the meetings and discussions about this issue. Throughout this time Tribal technical and regulatory personnel have worked directly with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce dissolved gas from the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dam projects located partially on the reservation. Environmental Trust has consistently told EPA representatives in these discussions that, as the Tribal environmental entity, they cannot recommend to the Colville Business Council that a TMDL be supported or implemented unless and until impacts on Tribal health and welfare are well enough understood to justify that recommendation. Since 1997, before this process even began, tribal technical representatives and regulatory personnel have recommended models and related studies in Tribal waters in order to determine these impacts. These models and studies have not been accomplished, in fact, they are not even planned to be accomplished in the near future.

I therefore request that the Columbia River TMDL above Wells Dam be put on hold until such time as adequate data and analysis are available to the Tribes. If the TMDL process continues forward without necessary data and analysis the Tribes cannot be a party to TMDL implementation at the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams. If it appears that TMDL implementation will adversely affect Tribal health and welfare we of course reserve the right to take actions to protect our people.

Sincerely,

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
COLVILLE RESERVATION

Joseph A. Pakootas, Chairman
Colville Business Council

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cc: Alfred Peone, Chairman, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Tom Fitzsimmons, Director, State of Washington Dept. of Ecology
J. William McDonald, Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
General Fastbend, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Pacific Division
William C. Dobbins, Manager, Douglas County PUD